

Serial No. 10/728,793
Atty. Dkt. No. 2281-105

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action of September 22, 2004, careful reconsideration in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is most respectfully requested.

Remarks Regarding Election and Restriction

In the Office Action, claims 13-15 and 19-22 were withdrawn from consideration. It is most respectfully submitted that upon the allowance of a claim from which these withdrawn claims depend, the Patent Office should properly allow these currently withdrawn claims. The Patent Office is requested to maintain these claims upon the allowance of any claims from which these claims depend.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. 112

In the Office Action, the language "set" was objected to. While the undersigned respectfully disagrees, and submits that the terminology "set" includes a unitary set (i.e., under the mathematical definition), the language has been modified to be similar to that

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proposed by the Examiner. Obviously, this amendment does not change the scope of the claim, and is only a cosmetic change. Thus, the scope of the claim under the doctrine of equivalents should not be limited in any manner.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 102

In paragraphs 6-7 of the Office Action, claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over Bringuet, and claims 1-12, 16-18 and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over Chiang, et al. These rejections are most respectfully traversed, as follows.

a) Bringuet

It is most respectfully submitted that the Bringuet reference does not even remotely teach or suggest the combination of features recited in claim 1.

First, it is respectfully noted claim 1 had **already previously recited**, among other things, a **"first frame member having a base-connection channel"** and **"a second frame member having a base-connection channel."** It is most respectfully submitted that the Bringuet reference does **not** teach or suggest **two** frame members, but merely **one** unitary member that includes portions 62 and 58.

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Notably, in some instances, having two frame members has different weight characteristics, such as, e.g., that the base sheet may be, e.g., supported from one of the frame members, while, in turn, providing some support for the other of the frame members in some embodiments. In contrast, in the single frame member, the entire frame member will provide support, rather than being supported.

Second, claim 1 has been further amended so as to recite, among other things, that there is a **snap-fit** connection between the channel(s) and the tab(s). Among other things, this **snap-fit** connection is very advantageous in the present environment.

The Brinquet does not teach or suggest the features recited. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is most respectfully requested.

b) Chiang, et al.

It is most respectfully submitted that the Chiang, et al. reference does not even remotely teach or suggest the combination of features recited in the present claims.

First, it is most respectfully submitted that the Chiang, et al. reference does not teach or suggest, among other things, that there is a **snap-fit** connection between the

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channel(s) and the tab(s). As indicated above, this **snap-fit** connection is very advantageous in the present environment. In contrast, in Chiang, et al., the members are laterally **slid** together to form an engagement. It is respectfully submitted that this form of attachment is less desirable. See, e.g., the following quotations from Chiang, et al.

Flexible strips 50 and 54 of edging material are provided for attachment to the upper edge of the sheet 16 (18) to be hung, the edging strips being configured to mate with and **slide into** the lower slot 26 of the upper member 10. See ABSTRACT (emphasis added).

Hangers 20 and 22 are each comprised of an elongated slider bracket 36 that is generally T-shaped in cross-section and is adapted to **slide into** the slot 24 from the ends of rod 10 before the end caps are installed. See DETAILED DESCRIPTION (emphasis added).

In order to affix the sheet material 16 to rod 10, rectangular holes 46 are punched along the upper edge thereof for receiving the tabs 48 of the plastic strip 50. After passing through the opening 46 the tabs 48 are inserted into corresponding openings 52 in a second strip 54 sandwiching the edge of sheet 16 therebetween. The resulting edge assembly is then **slid into the passageway 26 with sheet 16 extending through the slotted opening at the bottom**. Note that as is more clearly shown in FIG. 2, the strips 50 and 54, when combined with the thickness of sheet 16, form an assembly having an outside dimension slightly less than that of the slot 26. As indicated in FIG. 2 the assembly is retained within slot 26 by its interference with shoulders 56 formed at the bottom of the lower opening. See DETAILED DESCRIPTION (emphasis added).

In the case of a single sheet to be hung in accordance with the present invention, the bottom edge thereof would be similarly punched and engaged to a pair of plastic strips as indicated at 60. The assembly 60 would then be inserted into an elongated rectangular slot 62 formed in the top portion of a solid rod 12. As is suggested in FIG. 3 of the drawing, rod 12 is made solid in order to provide

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sufficient weight to overcome any tendency of the hanging sheet to roll as a result of its having been previously rolled for shipping or storage. See DETAILED DESCRIPTION.

It is, thus, most respectfully submitted that the reference does not teach or suggest the combinations of features recited in independent claims 1 and 23. Thus, early reconsideration and allowance of such independent claims are respectfully requested.

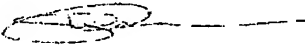
Second, it is also most respectfully noted that the various dependent claims are also not taught or suggested by the references. Early reconsideration and allowance of each and every dependent claim is most respectfully requested. Among other things, it is respectfully noted that claim 2 now recites, among other things, that "said at least one first side tab and said at least one second side tab are **integrally formed as a unitary part of the base sheet.**" In contrast, in the Chiang, et al. reference, the sheet 16 does not include tabs that are integrally formed as a unitary member with the sheet, but includes separate elements that are mounted or affixed to the sheet 16.

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Concluding Remarks

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, early reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested. In the event that any fees are due or payable in connection with this filing, please charge or credit our deposit account number 14-1437.

In the event that the Examiner desires to discuss any aspect of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned to expedite prosecution of this matter.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,			
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